THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that they have started examining the claims.

(b) According to SBI, Banco National Ultramarino (BNU) have reurntd five thousand five hundred and fifty one (551) sealed packets of pledged valuable and thrity-three (33) packets lodged for safe custody. These packets reportedly contain gold ornaments weighing approximately 280 Kilograms. 1262 claim applications had been received till the 30th August, 1991.

(c) Claimants who are the original pledges/depositors and who produce receipts issued by BNU will be given the valuables on identification and against payments of dues. In the case of claimants who are heirs/successors to the deceased pledgees/depositors, deeds of succession as per laws prevailing in Goa will be obtained. However, if satisfactory evidence of heir-ship is available on the basis of local enquiries and affidavits, the sealed packets can also be delivered on obtaining indemnity with securities alongwih letters of disclaimer, wherever necessary.

(d) Cases of unclamed packets will be rinsidered in accordance with the provisions of the agreeement between the SBI and the BNU at the appropriate time.

N.C.E.R.T.'s Hindi publication of Supplementary Books

377. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supplementary books published by the NCERT in Hindi mostly remain in godowns;

(b) what is the number of copies out of the 10,000 copies published, which are sold;

(c) what is the percentage of books of which over eight thousand copies are sold during the first three years; and

(d) what measures are being to improve the delivery system for NCERT publications in Hindi which is resulting into continuing loss at present?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. According to the information furnished by the NCERT, 41.35 per cent of the total number of titles of Hindi Supplementary Readers published by the NCERT during the last three years, have been distributed.

(c) 17.3 per cent.

(d) According to the NCERT no loss is being incurred on Hindi Supplementary Readers. Steps taken by the NCERT to improve their delivery system include:—

(i) Participation in book fairs.

(ii) Publicity.

(iii) Operation of a Sales Counter at the NCERT Campus in Delhi.

(iv) Opening of Regional publication and distribution centres at Calcutta, Madras and Ahmedabad to be functional shortly.

राष्ट्रीय वेद विद्या प्रतिष्ठान द्वारा प्रदान की गई छात्रवृत्तियां

378. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय वेद विद्या प्रतिष्ठान की पिछली बैठक में यह निर्णय लिया गया था कि सरकार भारतीय मूल के उन व्यक्तियों को छात्रवृत्तियां प्रदान करेगी जो विदेशों में रह रहे हों और जो भारत में रहकर संस्कृत का अध्ययन करना चाहते हों ; और